

Quilt As You Go Program

Advantages:

- Allows for greater flexibility and control over the quilting process, enabling quilters to handle smaller sections at a time, which is particularly beneficial for intricate designs or dense quilting.
- It makes the process more manageable for those with limited space, as you don't need to wrestle with an entire quilt.
- Saves money as you can quilt it yourself instead of sending it out to be quilted by someone else.
- Some methods can add a design element. Can make a two-sided quilt
- Can use batting and/or backing scraps

Disadvantages:

- May require a little more fabric and batting.
- It may be challenging to join the quilted sections together seamlessly.
- Some techniques might limit the piecing or quilting patterns you can use.

General Construction Tips for Assembling Blocks into Quilt:

- Avoid gaps in batting and overlapping batting.
- Use your walking foot or regular foot to construct the quilt, go with what works the best with your machine.
- The seam allowance for constructing the quilt may be larger – $\frac{3}{8}$ " or $\frac{1}{2}$ ", so plan a slightly larger block size to accommodate this.
- Reverse, back tack or tie off at the beginning and end of each seam to prevent thread nesting on the back of the quilt.

QAYG Techniques:

Quilt in Sections:

1. Sew entire top together before quilting:
 - a. Plan sections before quilting
 - b. Add batting in sections and quilt each section,
 - c. Connect batting sections together with a hand sewn zigzag stitch or with batting tape.
2. Quilt sections/blocks without backing:
 - a. Quilt through top fabrics and batting only.
 - b. Layer backing and add minimal quilting to attach it.
3. Piece quilt center, adding borders later:
 - a. Quilting the entire center together without borders reduces size of quilt to fit under the machine.
 - b. Borders can be added using several different methods.

Cover Strip Method: Narrow cover strip on either the front or the back shows the stitching as quilting lines.

1. General Information:
 - a. This is not suitable for patchwork blocks that have points that finish $\frac{1}{4}$ " away from the edge.
 - b. Quilt blocks/sections as desired; quilting can be stitched to the edge of the blocks/sections.
 - c. Strips are sewn over seams on either the front or the back of the quilt.
 - d. Cover strips can be a design element or blend in with the fabrics.
 - e. Cover strips on the front will look like a 1" wide sashing; cover strips on the back will look like quilting lines sewn $\frac{1}{2}$ " away from the seams on the front.
2. Technique:
 - a. Seam allowance is $\frac{3}{8}$ ".
 - b. Cut top and bottom fabrics for each block/section the same size or cut larger and trim to same size after quilting.
 - c. Batting size for each block is $\frac{3}{4}$ " smaller than top and backing fabrics ($\frac{3}{8}$ " smaller on each side). Layer the batting smaller initially or trim after blocks are quilted before sewing them together.
 - d. Sew blocks together as usual, right sides together.
 - e. Press seam open.
 - f. Calculate number of cover strips needed to cover all seams and cut strips 2" wide; sew strips together the same way as binding strips.
 - g. Press in sides of strips $\frac{1}{2}$ " on both long edges or use 1" bias maker – strips will be 1" wide.
 - h. Use a ruler to mark lines $\frac{1}{2}$ " either side of exposed seam – space between marks will be 1".
 - i. Place cover strips between lines, pin or glue, and sew down close to each edge (or hand sew).

- j. For seams that will be covered by another sign, start/stop strips $\frac{1}{2}$ " from block edges; for edges not covered, sew strips to edge of block. This will reduce bulk in the crossed seams.

Alternative Cover Strip Method: Narrow cover strip on the back with invisible stitching.

1. Make as the above cover strip method until 'i.' - stitching the strips down.
2. Place cover strips over seamline and use double sided $\frac{1}{4}$ " sewing tape to temporarily hold in place.
3. Sew down on each side of the strip with a blind stitch or narrow zigzag stitch. Use invisible thread or thread that matches the strips.
4. To sew, with the back facing up, fold the quilt along the edge of the strip and sew on the edge of the strip, just catching in the bulk of the quilt with the sideways stitch. This should just catch in the backing and batting and not show on the front. It will show on the strips on the back.

Sashing Methods:

Narrow Sashing Strips: Has narrow strips ($\frac{1}{2}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ ") between blocks on the front and back of quilt. The wider strips can only be used with unfinished blocks $\frac{3}{4}$ " larger than finished size.

1. Front sashing strips:
 - a. Cut strips 1". Sew with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.
 - b. Cut strips $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". Sew with a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance.
2. Back sashing strips:
 - a. Cut strips $1\frac{3}{4}$ " wide and press in half, wrong sides together for a $\frac{1}{2}$ " finished strip. Sew with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance.
 - b. Cut strips $2\frac{3}{8}$ " wide and press in half, wrong sides together for a $\frac{3}{4}$ " finished strip. Sew with a $\frac{3}{8}$ " seam allowance.
3. Cut backing and batting a minimum of $\frac{1}{2}$ " larger than the around all edges of the block before quilting.
4. Quilt as desired – you can quilt to the edges of the block (unfinished block is $\frac{1}{2}$ " larger than finished for $\frac{1}{2}$ " sashing and $\frac{3}{4}$ " larger for $\frac{3}{4}$ " sashing).
5. Trim backing and batting even with the top.
6. Place the raw edge of front sashing to top of block and the raw edge of the folded back sashing to back of block. Pin all edges together (front sashing raw edge, top, batting, backing, and folded edges of back sashing) and sew with appropriate seam allowance. For size of sashing. Flip the top strip over the seam and press.
7. Place this block on top of the next block with the tops facing (top sashing will be between the tops).
8. Pin and sew the other edge of the front sashing to the front of the next block. The two blocks are now sewn together with the front sashing between them.
9. The batting from both blocks should butt up against each other.
10. From the back, fold the back sashing over the seam. Hold in place with glue. On the front pin in the seam line through all layers, including the backing strip. Turn over to ensure the pins have caught the backing strip.
11. From front, stitch in the ditch, matching threads to top and backing.
12. To handsew, cut backing sashing strip $\frac{1}{4}$ " narrower and hand sew over the back seam.

QAYO with Sashing: Looks like wide strips between the blocks on the back and the front.

1. Similar to narrow strip method, but the sashing strips can be any size.
2. Strips are quilted after joining the blocks.
3. Cut top strips desired finished width plus $\frac{1}{2}$ " to accommodate seam allowances.
4. Cut backing strips $\frac{1}{2}$ " larger than strip width to allow for folding over.
5. Cut batting $\frac{1}{2}$ " smaller than finished width to accommodate the seams.
6. Follow steps #3 through #8 above.
7. Insert batting strips between the front and back sashings.
8. Follow steps #10 through #12 above.
9. Quilt the sashing.

No Sashing Methods: Gives the appearance of a traditional quilt with no interruption between the blocks/sections.

- Seam allowance for patchwork blocks/sections is $\frac{1}{4}$ ".
- Seam allowance for applique quilts is $\frac{3}{8}$ " or $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

One to Three Method: One layer (the top) of a section is sewn to all three layers of another section. In a quilt, alternate the blocks in each row with the One to One Method.

1. Cut backing and batting a minimum of $\frac{1}{2}$ " larger than the around all edges of the block.
2. Quilt as desired. Do not quilt within $\frac{1}{4}$ " of at least one block/section edge that will be joined.

3. After quilting, trim backing and batting to $\frac{1}{4}$ " larger than top for patchwork quilts; for applique quilts, trim backing and batting level with top.
4. Place two blocks side by side, right side up.
5. Place one block on top of the other block, right sides together.
6. Separate the batting and backing on the top block, folding it back and pinning it.
7. Pin the top of that block to all three layers of the bottom block; align the centers and edges of blocks.
8. Sew the seam.
9. Open out the blocks and press seam toward the block that was on the top (the one with only one layer sewn).
10. With the backing facing up, fold the backing fabric of the single layer sewn block out of the way and lay the batting over the seam.
11. Using a ruler, mark a line on the batting where it butts up against the other batting that was sewn into the seam with the three layers. If your seam was accurate, the amount of excess batting should be $\frac{3}{4}$ ".
12. Slide a ruler under the batting and cut off the excess batting with scissors.
13. Connect the two battings together: Sew together by hand or fuse with batting tape. To fuse with tape, cut batting tape to length of seam and cut tape in half lengthwise. Lay tape over batting edges with rough side down and iron to fuse down, being careful not to cover the sewn seam.
14. Mark a line $\frac{3}{8}$ " from edge of backing of the single layer sewn block. Press under along marked line and place backing over exposed batting and sewn seam line. H in place with glue, being sure to cover sewn seam.
15. Turn to the front and pin along the seamline, catching in the backing flap. Turn over to ensure pins caught the edge of the backing fabric.
16. From front, stitch in the ditch, matching threads to top and backing.
17. Add additional quilting as desired between the blocks.

One to One Method: One layer (the top) of a section is sewn to one layer (the top) of another section.

1. Cut backing and batting a minimum of $\frac{1}{2}$ " larger than the around all edges of the block.
18. Quilt as desired. Do not quilt within $\frac{1}{4}$ " of Quilt as desired. Do not quilt within $\frac{1}{4}$ " all block/section edge that will be joined. The open edges make it possible to join the three layers together separately.
2. After quilting, trim backing and batting to $\frac{1}{4}$ " larger than top for patchwork quilts; for applique quilts, trim backing and batting level with top.
3. Place two blocks side by side, right side up.
4. Place one block on top of the other block, right sides together.
5. Separate the batting and backing on both blocks, folding them back and pinning them.
6. Pin the top fabrics of both blocks together, aligning the centers and edges of blocks.
7. Sew the seam.
8. Press seam toward one side; alternate sides with other rows, so they will nest.
9. With the backing facing up, fold the backing fabrics out of the way and lay one batting over the seam. Next overlap the other batting. Trim the batting on the opposite side from the way the seam was pressed to strengthen the join.
10. Using a ruler, measure and mark a line on the batting overlap; it should overlap 1".
11. Slide a ruler under the batting and cut off the excess batting with scissors.
12. Connect the two battings together: Sew together by hand or fuse with batting tape. To fuse with tape, cut batting tape to length of seam and cut tape in half lengthwise. Lay tape over batting edges with rough side down and iron to fuse down, being careful not to cover the sewn seam.
13. Mark a line $\frac{3}{8}$ " from edge of backing of the single layer sewn block. Press under along marked line and place backing over exposed batting and sewn seam line. H in place with glue, being sure to cover sewn seam.
14. Turn to the front and pin along the seamline, catching in the backing flap. Turn over to ensure pins caught the edge of the backing fabric.
15. From front, stitch in the ditch, matching threads to top and backing.
16. Add additional quilting as desired between the blocks.

Borders: Pre-quilted borders can be attached by methods above or unquilted borders can be attached like the QAYG sashings, batting inserted and quilted afterwards.